



Kenya

Drought Emergency Response Plan (ERP)

The experience of Samburu, Kenya

Emergencies, including drought, affect all sectors and livelihood options in society, from food production to livestock husbandry and public health. When they occur, there usually an immediate need to provide much needed assistance to communities, businesses and individuals threatened by these incidents to effectively respond. The primary aim of the Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) approach is to optimise the speed and volume of critical assistance delivered immediately after the onset of a humanitarian emergency. It includes setting up a system to monitor those risks to ensure early action is taken when required and ensure the establishment of a minimum level of multi-hazard preparedness.

The follow steps are critical for an effective emergency response plan:

- **Observation & Monitoring:** Promoting the growth of observational networks and drought indices by increasing the data resources available for drought monitoring and filling spatial and temporal gaps in data coverage.
- **Prediction & Forecasting:** Assessing current operational drought forecast system capabilities and developing a strategy to improve official monthly, sub-seasonal, and seasonal drought outlooks. This could be done in partnership with relevant stakeholders including meteorology offices, with regularly scheduled conferencing for data interpretation and analysis.
- **Planning & Preparedness:** Improving the dissemination of drought research, tools, and planning information in formats that are timely, accessible, and useful for drought management and decision making. If possible, these should be interpreted to household level actions which could influence decisions made at the most disaggregated levels of society.
- **Communication & Outreach:** Providing drought information and tools to increase individual and community capacity for minimizing the social, economic, and environmental impacts of drought. To the greatest extent possible, this should be done in languages that are widely spoken by the local community and ideally using methods that can reach even the most isolated community members such as use of Maa or Samburu language community radio or mobile phone messaging services.
- **Interdisciplinary Research & Applications:** Ensuring federal research is coordinated and integrated into decision making, leading to better informed and more timely decisions by vulnerable stakeholders and government leaders.

Countries also need to have an on-going set of activities, to have minimum level of emergency preparedness which are as follows:

- Establishment of Risk Monitoring Mechanisms
- Establishment of coordination and management frameworks
- Joint needs assessments and stakeholder identification
- Information management and response monitoring
- Establishment of operational capacity and arrangements

Three pillars of the Integrated Drought Emergency Response Plan in Samburu, Kenya

